

VIII. FUNDING SOURCES

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A key for the success of the City of Lakeland's Recreation Master Plan is the ability of the City to identify and secure stable funding sources for the recommendations and implementation of the Plan and for the ongoing operational, maintenance, and improvement needs of existing city parks. There always seems to be a gap between funding available from current sources and what is needed to fully implement the Master Plan. The following is a list of possible funding sources for parks, greenways, and trails. This list is not exhaustive, but rather provided as a starting point for researching available funding opportunities. Descriptions for the grant fund programs were drawn from the grant fund's corresponding website.

BED TAX

A Bed Tax, or Hotel Tax, is a local tax on the rental of hotel rooms and other transient stay accommodations. The funds acquired can be used for the development of parks, construction of

recreational facilities, and infrastructure development such as trails.

DEDICATION//DEVELOPMENT FEES

Development Fees are fees on new residential and/or commercial developments to be put toward park and recreation development. Examples of uses of these fees include open space acquisition and neighborhood, community and regional park development.

DONATIONS

A possible source of parkland is the private donation of such land by landowners to the City for a specific purpose or use through deed restriction.

FACILITY NAMING RIGHTS

Revenue can be created for specific facilities by granting facility naming rights to an organization, business, or individual.

GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

General obligation bonds are bonds issued with the belief that a municipality will be able to repay its debt obligation through taxation or revenue from projects. They are backed by the full faith and credit of the jurisdiction issuing the bonds and may be used by a municipality of county for any lawful or necessary purpose. The primary advantage of these bonds is the ability to use the proceeds for almost any purpose, and to spread the benefits and burdens of the funds uniformly throughout the community.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENTS

For the development of athletic complexes, regional parks, and other large recreational facilities serving the greater community, Inter-Governmental Agreements should be considered. These agreements provide a contractual relationship between two or more local units of government for the joint usage or development of such facilities.

PARTNERSHIPS

Parks or facilities can be funded through a partnership with local schools, community colleges, community based organizations, private businesses, and Joint Power Authorities.

PROPERTY TAX

The establishment of a property tax in the City of Lakeland could greatly help fund Park & Recreational Programs and aid in land acquisition.

RECREATIONAL SERVICE FEE

The City can establish a Recreational Service Fee for the purpose of construction and maintenance of recreational facilities. This fee can be applied to all organized activities requiring reservations, such as all organized sports and leagues.

USER FEES

Fees can be assessed to users of facilities to aide in maintenance or improvements of the facility or park.

HERITAGE CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund seeks to protect significant natural areas in Tennessee by strategically partnering with landowners, government agencies, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies and others. Eligible projects range from the preservation of tracts for the purposes of tourism and recreation to projects focused on protecting or restoring the state's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical and environmental resources. (<http://tennessee.gov/environment/trustfund/>)

TENNESSEE RECREATION EDUCATIONAL SERVICES DIVISION GRANTS PROGRAM

Recreational Educational Services is responsible for administering federal and state grant programs to local and state governments. The Division manages the Local Parks and Recreation Fund (LPRF) Grant Program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), the Natural Resources Trust Fund (NRTF) and the

Recreation Trails Program (RTP). The programs listed below have a match requirement and specific regulations for the applicants. (<http://www.state.tn.us/environment/recreation/grants.shtml>)

LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION FUND (LPRF) GRANTS

The LPRF is to provide grants to all eligible local governmental entities for the purchase of lands for parks, natural areas, greenways, and for the purchase of land for recreation facilities. The funds may also be used for trail development and capital projects in parks, natural areas, and greenways. At least 60 percent of the funds allocated will go to municipal governments as authorized by the act. Recreation Educational Services (RES) has been awarding grants to eligible local governments for the purchase and development of land since 1992. These grants require a 50% match.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND
(LWCF) GRANTS

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578, 78 Stat 897) was enacted "...to assist in preserving, developing and assuring accessibility to all citizens of the United States of America of present and future generations...such quality and quantity of outdoor recreation resources as may be available and are necessary and desirable for individual active participation..." The LWCF program provides matching grants to states, and through the state to local governments and state agencies that provide recreation and parks, for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. Recreation Educational Services administers the LWCF grants. These grants require a 50% match.

NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND
(NRTF) GRANTS

The NRTF was created by the General Assembly "to protect the endowment

represented by the land and minerals owned by the State; and to ensure that development of state-owned non-renewable resources will proceed in a manner which is economically sound, and that revenues received from disposal of those resources will be used for the long term public interest." Grants from the NRTF may be awarded to all eligible local governmental entities and state areas for outdoor recreation, historical or archaeological sites, the acquisition of lands, waters, or interests in lands and waters. Recreation Educational Services Division (RES) administers the NRTF grants. These grants require a 50% match.

RECREATION TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP)
GRANTS

Through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU), RTP funds are available statewide for recreation trail projects. Eligible applicants include state, federal,

and local government agencies and private organizations. Priority is given to government agencies. Public/private partnerships are encouraged. 20% match required (qualifying in-kind match is allowed).

FISHAMERICA FOUNDATION

CONSERVATION GRANT

The FishAmerica Foundation provides funding to non-profit organizations such as sporting clubs, civic associations, conservation groups, and state agencies, in the United States and Canada. The Foundations' Conservation Projects Committee funds hands-on, action-oriented projects that have clear and identifiable benefits to sport fish populations and the sport of fishing. While sound research should be the basis for all grant applications, the Conservation Projects Committee only funds projects that directly enhance water quality, habitat and/or sport fish populations. The average conservation grant is \$7,500. (<http://www.fishamerica.org/grants/>)

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENTS

PROGRAM (TE) GRANT

TE activities are projects that, according to the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC), "expand travel choices and enhance the transportation experience by improving the cultural, historic, aesthetic and environmental aspects of our transportation infrastructure." As 10 percent of the Surface Transportation Program, TE is a large potential source of funding for trail projects. These grants require a 20% match. (<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm>)

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS)

SRTS is a federally funded program focusing on the benefits of children walking and biking to school. Its primary purpose is to encourage elementary and middle school children to safely walk and bike to school thereby promoting a healthier lifestyle, reducing traffic congestion and minimizing air pollution. Eligible recipients include state, local, and regional agencies including non-

profit organizations. Projects or activities are 100% federally funded; no match is required. (<http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/bikeped/saferoutes.htm>)

TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNITY AND SYSTEM PRESERVATION PROGRAM (TCSP)

Only states, MPOs, local governments and tribal governments are eligible recipients of TCSP grants from the Federal Highway Association (FHWA), though a nonprofit group could partner with an eligible recipient. TCSP projects should improve the efficiency of the transportation system, reduce the impacts of transportation on the environment, reduce the need for costly future public infrastructure, ensure efficient access to jobs, services and centers of trade, and encourage private sector development patterns. Trails are an eligible use of program funds; in FY 2008 eight trail projects received a total of \$5,365,500 in TCSP funds. According to the National Park Service's RTCA program, this discretionary funding

source is usually monies requested through elected congressional officials (earmarks). (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/tcsp/>)

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The LWCF program provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The program is intended to create and maintain a nationwide legacy of high quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States. (<http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/>)

KODAK AMERICAN GREENWAYS AWARDS PROGRAM

Eastman Kodak, The Conservation Fund, and the National Geographic Society provide small grants to stimulate the planning and design of greenways in communities throughout America. The

annual grants program was instituted in response to the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors recommendation to establish a national network of greenways. Made possible by a generous grant from Eastman Kodak, the program also honors groups and individuals whose ingenuity and creativity foster the creation of greenways. (http://www.conservationfund.org/kodak_awards)